REMARKS

Claims 9 to 31 and 35 to 53 and 77 to 102 continue to be under consideration.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Fig. 3-8 and corresponding claims, each detailing a different method of operating a coin actuated entertainment automat game or system.

The species are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant elects the embodiment of Fig. 5 to be prosecuted initially for patentability.

There is an examination and search burden for these patentably distinct species due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species,** including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Applicant elects the species of Fig. 5 to be prosecuted initially for patentability. The claims encompassing the elected species are believed to be claims 9 to 36, 35 to 47, 77 to 89 and 99 to 100.

The election of the species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

Applicant does not traverse the election of species requirement with the understanding that once patentability is found in connection with the elected species that then reconsideration will be given to the species not elected.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the

prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Applicant understands that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant is entitled to consideration of claims associated with other species.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Entry of the present response is respectfully requested. All claims as submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Gauselmann

By: Horst M. Kasper

Horst M. Kasper, his attorney
13 Forest Drive, Warren, N.J. 07059
Tel.(908)757-2839; Tel.(908)668-5262
Reg.No. 28559; Docket No.: Adp238

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